of the liberal policies, a number of high-speed vehicles from the international market are coming there? Is it not because of the two highways? I would like to know from the Minister whether it is not because of the two highways and the increase in the number of vehicles.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him reply.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, I will discuss it with him and I will answer to it.

Potential of Bio-tech Industry

*327. SHRI S.P.M. SAYED KHAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even though India has great potential, the bio-tech industry remains to be small with a size of 17 million US $ (in 1994) with limited Indian players;

(b) the number of bio-tech companies operating in India with their products and services; and

(c) the steps taken and schemes formulated by Government for the bio-tech sector development in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) Indian bio-tech industry has made considerable progress in last half decade. As per the BioSpectrum-ABLE (Association of Biotechnology-Led Enterprises) survey of Indian Biotech Industry, the number of companies in the Biotechnology Sector has grown to 235 in the year 2003-2004 as compared to about 150 in the previous year. Indian Biotech sector has obtained critical mass in manufacturing as well as research services and has slowly built a market for biotech products and services estimated at $700 million for the Year 2003-2004 and is well on its way to reach its targeted $1 billion market size by 2005 and $5 billion by 2010 (Estimate by ABLE). Indian Biotechnology is now poised to leverage its scientific skills and technical experience to make a global impact on a strong innovation led platform.

The Government of India (GOI) has given enough attention to the innovative biotech sector with an impetus for the development and promotion by providing incentives like: reduction in custom duty on specified machinery; 150 percent weighted deduction on in-house R&D expenditure; equity support to small and medium enterprises through Small Industries Development. Bank of India (SIDBI). Under the Foreign Trade Policy 2004-09, all benefits enjoyed by Export Oriented Units (EOU) have been passed on to Biotech Parks (BTP) in the country also. 100 percent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has been permitted for BTPs through Automatic Route similar to Special Economic Zones (SEZ) untis. BTP units are exempted from payment of Income Tax as per the provisions of Section 10A & 10B of the IT Act.

In addition to the Central Government initiatives, several states have formulated their state specific biotech policies and established biotech parks to boost the biotechnology sector in their respective states and the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), GOI is contributing to their effort by supporting creation of incubator/pilot level facilities in these parks.

The DBT has been responsible for development of human resource through Master level and Ph. D. programmes to meet industry demand apart from strengthening of infrastructure in the university systems and research institutes.

SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the level of private participation in the bio-tech sector in India is low as compared to other industries like IT and food processing, and whether the Government has any plan to extend subsidy to the investors to encourage bio-tech industry.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, as far as the bio-tech sector is concerned, the hon. Member is aware of the fact that the IT sector came into prominence much before the bio-tech sector. But I have to say that in recent years the kind of investments that are taking place in the bio-tech sector is extremely encouraging. In fact, the total turnover of the bio-tech sector, in the last one year, in 2003-04, was 750 million dollars. Today, it is a billion dollars. Therefore, there is an increase of 39 per cent. New companies doing cutting-edge technologies are investing in India with 100 per cent FDI. So, I am very happy with the way in which the bio-tech sector is, in fact, proceeding.

SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the phenomenon that exists in the Indian bio-tech sector is that the industry is still at the initial stage and is yet to be commercialised. The hon. Minister may also name the areas which have been identified by the Government for commercialisation.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, as far as the bio-tech sector is concerned, there are two aspects to it. Besically, the trends are that if we invest more in R & D, there is a great likelihood of our discovering new molecules, especially, in the health sector and agri-bio-tech sector, which is going to give a great impetus to the entire industry. So, from the lab to the market, there is a long road. We are investing at every stage of that road, at the stage of lab, at the stage of public-private partnerships, at the stage of incubation and at the stage of actually developing that idea from incubation to the market. At every stage, there are investments. But, at the moment, bio-pharma sector and bio-informatic sector are doing extremely well along with bio-services.

दूरसंचार उपकरणों का निर्माण

*328. **प्रो॰ रामबख्श सिंह वर्मा:†**
श्री लेखराज वचानी:

क्या संचार और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि विदेशी कंपनियों ने देश के अंदर दूरसंचार उपकरणों का निर्माण करने का अनुरोध किया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उन कंपनियों का ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) उक्त कंपनियों द्वारा दूरसंचार उपकरणों के निर्माण पर कुल कितनी धनराशि निवेश किये जाने की संभावना है?

संचार और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री (श्री दयानिधि मारन): (क) से (ग) विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

विवरण

(क) से (ग) दूरसंचार उपस्कर के विनिर्माण हेतु सरकार से विशिष्ट अनुमति लेने की

†यह प्रश्न सभा में प्रो॰ रामबख्श सिंह वर्मा द्वारा पूछा गया।